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SECRET (When Filled In)

DIRECTORATE OF OPERATIONS

Intelligence Information Cable

●ROUTINE

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WARNING NOTICE
SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

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3.5(c)

Classified by Designated Reporting Officer. Exempt from General Declassification Schedule of E.O. 11652 Exemption Category 5B (1), (2) Impossible to Determine Date of Automatic Declassification.

FURTHER DISSEMINATION AND USE OF THIS INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CONTROLS STATED AT BEGINNING AND END OF REPORT.

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

SECRET

3.5(c)

DIST 21 JULY 1976

REPORT CLASS S E C R E T--WARNING NOTICE-SENSITIVE

INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED--

3.5(c)

COUNTRY ARGENTINA/CUBA

3.3(b)(1)

SUBJECT BACKGROUND TO OPERATION LEADING TO THE DISCOVERY BY THE SECURITY FORCES OF MARIO SANTUCHO, COMMANDER OF THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY

3.3(b)(1)

1. THE INFORMATION WHICH ENABLED THE SECURITY FORCES TO LOCATE MARIO ROBERTO S A N T U C H O,

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COMMANDER OF THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (ERP), WAS PROVIDED BY AN ERP OFFICIAL WHO CONTACTED THE ARGENTINE ARMY AND OFFERED TO REVEAL THE WHEREABOUTS OF SANTUCHO AND OTHER ERP LEADERS IN EXCHANGE FOR THE RELEASE OF HIS WIFE WHO HAD BEEN PICKED UP. THE ARMY NOT ONLY AGREED, BUT ALSO PROMISED THE ERP OFFICIAL THAT HE WOULD BE GIVEN MONEY AND ASSISTANCE IN LEAVING ARGENTINA WITH HIS FAMILY. THE ARMY THEREUPON TOOK THE ERP OFFICIAL TO SEE HIS WIFE TO ASSURE HIM THAT SHE WAS BEING HELD AND WAS WELL; AFTER WHICH THE ERP OFFICIAL PINPOINTED THE BUILDING IN VILLA MARTELLI IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE NEAR THE CAPTIAL WHERE SANTUCHO AND OTHER ERP LEADERS WERE HIDING OUT. THE ERP OFFICIAL SAID THAT SANTUCHO HAD BEEN LIVING IN THIS BUILDING FOR ABOUT A MONTH. ([redacted] 3.3(b)(1)

COMMENT: AS REPORTED IN THE NEWS MEDIA, A SHOOTOUT BETWEEN THE SECURITY FORCES AND EXTREMISTS TOOK PLACE IN VILLA MARTELLI ON 19 JULY 1976 RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF SANTUCHO, ERP LEADER JORGE BENITO U R T E A G A AND OTHERS WHO HAVE NOT YET BEEN POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED.)

2. THE ERP OFFICIAL ALSO TOLD THE AUTHRORITIES THAT

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BECAUSE OF THE DANGER TO SANTUCHO'S LIFE AS A RESULT OF THE COUNTERSUBVERSIVE CAMPAIGN IN ARGENTINA, SANTUCHO WAS PLANNING TO TRAVEL IN LATE JULY TO CUBA VIA MENDOZA IN ARGENTINA, CHILE AND EUROPE, TO REMAIN IN CUBA ABOUT A MONTH. (COMMENT: SANTUCHO'S WIFE, HER PARENTS AND HER CHILDREN BY A FORMER MARRIAGE ARE BELIEVED TO BE IN CUBA.) (COMMENT: A PLANE TICKET TO CUBA WAS FOUND ON SANTUCHO'S BODY.)

3.3(b)(1)

3.3(b)(1)

3. THE ERP OFFICIAL SAID THAT EARLIER IN JULY SANTUCHO HAD MET WITH MARIO F I R M E N I C H, COMMANDER OF THE MONTONEROS, TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF A MERGER OF THE ERP WITH THE MONTONEROS, A SITUATION WHICH WAS STILL BEING NEGOTIATED BY THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS AS OF 19 JULY. ACCORDING TO THE ERP OFFICIAL, SANTUCHO ALSO ASKED FIRMENICH FOR MONEY, BUT FIRMENICH REFUSED, POINTING OUT THAT THE ERP ALREADY OWED THE MONTONEROS U.S. $600,000. THE MEETING BETWEEN SANTUCHO AND FIRMENICH WAS HELD IN THE NORTHERN SUBURBS

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OF BUENOS AIRES. THE ERP OFFICIAL SAID THAT A LIKELY REPLACEMENT FOR SANTUCHO AS COMMANDER OF THE ERP IS LUIS M A T T I N I.

[redacted] 3.3(b)(1)

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